

Minutes of Waukesha County Airport Operations Commission
January 11, 2012

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Crowley, Bluemke and Falstad. Excused: Richards & Schoepke.

Others Present: Samuel K Cryer, Plane Safe Aircraft; Val Ramos, Airport Administration; Stan Goran, Commemorative Air Force; Brian Behrens, Spring City Aviation; Ken Witt, Tower Chief Harry Becker, Atlantic Aviation; Kurt Stanich, Airport Operations; Jim Singer, Flight for Life; Steve Betzler, Commemorative Air Force/AOPA; Vince Freeborn, Flight for Life; Mike Eddy, Stein Aircraft Services; Laurie Stein, Stein's Aircraft Services; Ray Dalman, Atlantic Aviation and Betsy Forrest, Public Works Dept.

Approve modify minutes of Minutes of December 14, 2011

No action taken. December minutes to be approved at February 8, 2012 meeting.

Public Comment/Correspondence – None

Discussion and action on a request by 2347 Aviation Drive Condo Association to erect a new Commemorative Air Force (CAF) sign adjacent to Gate 1 on Aviation Drive – Mr. Stanich informed the Commission of a request from Gary Otto (2347 tenant) to erect a CAF sign next to the hangar on Aviation Drive to direct people to the hangar for meetings and events.

Mr. Betzler addressed the Commission and gave a brief background on the CAF. The CAF has been at the airport for 27 years. The past 18 months the CAF has conducted Boy Scout merit badge programs, Tiger Scout hosting, collaboration with the YMCA to bring senior citizens to the airport for lectures and part of the Silver Sneakers Program, host movie night quarterly and do an Open House quarterly. The CAF has provided aviation activities to the community for a number of years and now they would like to identify their organization and where it is located when people come to the airport for events.

Prior to the meeting the Commission received information on the CAF and a drawing of the CAF sign they would like placed outside the gate identifying the organization's location at the airport. Mr. Betzler said the drawing is a draft, nothing has been finalized and changes can be made. The CAF also has security procedures in place for airport access by visitors, these are outlined in the information packet the Commission received. The CAF is a non-profit organization.

Goran – It has been a privilege to be a part of the airport community. The Commission's consideration on this request is greatly appreciated.

Crowley – Thank you to Mr. Betzler and Mr. Goran. The sign request was discussed with airport staff and some concerns were expressed such as setting a precedent, location and obtaining a sign permit from the City of Waukesha.

Markano – Plans for the southwest area were reviewed and there are several easements through the hill in front of the hangar and a drainage swale. Several utilities gas, electric, sanitary, cable, fiber for the airport gates and the County fiber run through the hill's location. This could be problematic in mounting a sign on this hill.

Betzler – Could Digger's Hotline be called, have the utilities marked and check the placement location of the sign?

Markano – Yes, and review the easements. We also need to check if County Board approval is necessary if the sign is on county grounds and not in the leasehold. If County Board approval is required, an ordinance will need to be drawn. In past history, trying to acquire signs at the airport have not been successful.

Crowley – Yes, there has been past history of signage along Aviation Drive at the airport with the County Board. There are some hurdles to overcome and setting a precedent of signs along Aviation Drive. The airport does not do a good job identifying businesses and hangars along Aviation Drive. It is very timely to talk about signage and what the Commission should do to spruce up identification of businesses along Aviation Drive.

Markano – This is a unique situation, where CAF has been a long time tenant at the airport that promotes aviation and helps with airport events. We can structure language in the agreement that this is only for a 501C3 (non-profit) organization.

Bluemke – As far as he is concerned, doing this as a 501C3 is a big problem. Any business at the airport should be treated as equal to the CAF, a non-profit. It is very important for profit making organizations to have signage. County signage rules have been antiquated and it seems drafted to eliminate signs.

Markano – The covenants allow for signage on a building. Remote located signs have always been a problem.

Bluemke – This is archaic. You go to other airports and there are signs as you come directing you to the various buildings on the airport.

Falstad – In favor of CAF's request if the Commission can comply by the rules. The CAF is an asset to the airport and if there is a way to make an exception, it should be done. Also agree with Bluemke, to grant this on the basis of a non-profit organization probably is not the way to go.

Crowley – Suggest that all business along Aviation Drive be treated equally and have the fair opportunity to present and install a sign at their location. We do need to comply with the County ordinance. The Commission can recommend a waiver on the leasehold to the County Board. This should be justified and presented to the County Board agenda for approval. Does the sign have to be placed on the property vs. the building? Would CAF be open to placing the sign on the building?

Betzler – Second choice would be placing the sign on the fence. The fence is in public view and this would be more visible for people driving down the road prior to reaching the hangar.. Mr. Betzler does not have approval from the Condo Association to install the sign on the building. This would probably not be the Condo Associations first choice.

Crowley – What does the Commission need to do to move this forward?

Markano – The fence would still be beyond the leasehold and at that point an ordinance would be required to approve the sign outside the fence by Gate 1 on Aviation Drive.

Bluemke - Why does the County not allow signs along the roadway, Aviation Drive? Why doesn't Atlantic have a sign?

Markano – Atlantic requested to put up a sign and they were turned down the the County. The County did not want the roadway to become cluttered with signs.

Stanich – Instead of creating an ordinance for every sign that goes up along Aviation Drive, can something be written that if someone wants to put up a sign they have to follow certain procedures and criteria?

Markano – There is criteria in each of the hangar covenants regarding signage. The standard lease language and covenants were approved by the County Board. Free standing signs are not addressed, this would require approval by the Airport Commission and County Board, and approval by the sign review committee of the City.

Crowley – If the Commission is in favor of this, the Commission can recommend conceptual approval of the CAF sign but details would need to be worked out.

Falstad and Bluemke– Agree with this, but the Commission should be consistent in allowing signs at the airport. Everyone should be treated equally.

Stanich – Suggest the airport create a sign process policy to allow signage on airport grounds (not just Aviation Drive) and meet with the City sign planning committee to explain this new policy and what City requirements should be included to complete the application process.

Crowley – Request airport staff to work with Public Works Department to prepare signage permit policy guidelines on airport grounds for the February meeting.

No action taken on agenda item 3 (CAF request). To be addressed at February meeting.

Discussion and action on Application for Aircraft Self-Fueling Permit from Stein's Aircraft Services, LLC (SAS) - Brief history on this agenda item by Chairman Crowley. Documents and application were submitted prior to this meeting by SAS for airport staff for review and to facilitate their request. After speaking with Mrs. Stein, action for this agenda item has been withdrawn.

Mrs. Stein – This is the first chance to look at a report given to her by airport management and could not comment at this time.

Crowley – It is important to point out that the Commission has been unable to move forward with this because of questions that have been unanswered in the past. Much has been done the past few months to get this far and there are more hurdles to go through.

No action taken on this agenda item 4 (SAS request).

Chairman's Report – An election is coming up in April. We have five members on the Commission with terms that go beyond 2013. Chairman Crowley is running for County Board Supervisor in District 16. He was unopposed and, on April 3rd it appears he will be elected. Commissioner Falstad is a County Board Supervisor and has an opponent in the forthcoming election. Hopefully he will continue on with his post in the Commission. In the past there has not been two County Board Supervisors on the Commission. Chairman Crowley discussed this with the County Board Chairman, Public Works Director and the County Executive. They noted there is nothing that states two County Board Supervisors cannot serve on the Airport Operations Commission. Election of Airport Operations Commission officers will take place at the June meeting. All of the Commissioners will be present at this meeting. By then we will know the outcome of the April election and if Commissioner Falstad continues serving on the Commission. Chairman Crowley wanted this to go on record because of the possibility he would be serving on the Commission as a County Board Supervisor with another County Board Supervisor.

Airport Manager's Report – E-mail received stating President's 2013 budget will recommend the FAA eliminate funding to all FAA contract towers served by general aviation. This proposal would eliminate the critical safety program at all FAA contract towers including our tower. Letters sent to WI Congressman and Senators asking for support to continue this funding. In the past we have received support from Sensenbrenner and Kohl. This letter will be posted for airport tenants to write to representatives for support of the tower funding.

Geographical Services Group at the FAA in D.C. – Request from them regarding visual glide slope indicators for runway 18/36. They are doing a validating flight inspection and they wanted to verify critical data. There were forms to complete. These forms were completed by Mr. Markano and with help from the engineers from Mead & Hunt they were sent back to the FAA. Once the forms have been reviewed and updated in the data base we should be hearing from them FAA to schedule a commissioning flight inspection.

Tower Activity and Fuel reports

Tower Activity – Activity has been good due to the weather. Traffic is up 4.3% in the month but still down in the year by about 4%.

Fuel – Fuel is also good due to the weather. Fuel is still down for the year but only by 1%.

Incident on airfield Tuesday (1/10/12) – Cessna 182 retractable gear airplane was having problems with the retractable gear indication. When the plane touched down the nose wheel collapsed. The airport was closed for about an hour to remove the aircraft off the airfield.

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Becker, Atlantic Aviation, for update on fuel prices.

Becker - Fuel prices are \$6.10 for Jet A and \$6.29 for LL. There have been some huge price jumps from 12-17 cents. The price jump due to what is going on right now in Strait of Hormuz, this will probably continue until things settle down.

Future Agenda Items

Restaurant Update

Signage Policy

Adjourn

Commission Falstad moved to adjourn with second by Vice-chairman Bluemke. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:00 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A Crowley
Chairman
January 11, 2012